

## Hawks set to triumph over Sharks again

BY 1<sup>ST</sup> LT. J.J. MURPHY  
30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing Public Affairs

■ The 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing announced it's competitors last week who will make up the Guardian Challenge 2000 Team. This year's event will run May 1 through 5.

Twenty-two base members from the 30<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Space Launch Squadron, the 30<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron, the 30<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, the 76<sup>th</sup> Helicopter Flight, the 30<sup>th</sup> Range Squadron and 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing Safety, will face-off against the Patrick AFB Sharks to determine once again, who is the best in Air Force Space Command.

Col. Steve Lanning, 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing commander, hosted a kick-off party with co-hosts "Hans" and "Franz," 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Chris Barcomb and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ehren Carl from the 2<sup>nd</sup> SLS. Free pizza and beverages were provided by Vandenberg's Competition Association.

Base members are now authorized to wear their Guardian Challenge apparel. To purchase items, call Capt. Scott Van Sant at 606-3677.



Airman 1st Class April Muniz

Col. Steve Lanning, 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing commander (top row center) presents Vandenberg's Guardian Challenge 2000 Team during a kick-off party Feb. 25. Members of the 30<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> Space Launch Squadron, 30<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron, 30<sup>th</sup> Range Squadron, 30<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, 76<sup>th</sup> Helicopter Flight and 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing Safety make up the team.

This year's Guardian Challenge competitors are:

### Spacelift Operations Team:

Capt. Todd Shull, 30<sup>th</sup> OSS  
Capt. Jim Gray, 2<sup>nd</sup> SLS  
Capt. John Pratt, 30<sup>th</sup> RANS  
Staff Sgt. Mark Perkins, 30<sup>th</sup> OG  
Capt. Steve Pomeroy, 30<sup>th</sup> SW Safety

### Security Forces Team, 30<sup>th</sup> SFS:

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hector Baez  
Staff Sgt. Bruce Campbell  
Staff Sgt. Rick Villapando  
Senior Airman Jeffrey Fields  
Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mathew Zizzo  
Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Efrain Espinoza



### Helicopter Operations Team, 76<sup>th</sup> HF:

Capt. Derrick Stamos  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matt Horin  
Senior Airman Don Cruz  
Craig Moulton

### Guardian Challenge Trainers:

#### Spacelift Operations:

Capt. Dave Meteyer, 30<sup>th</sup> OG  
Capt. Janice Hance, 2<sup>nd</sup> SLS  
Capt. John Claxton, 30<sup>th</sup> RANS  
Capt. Rick Purinton, 30<sup>th</sup> SW Safety  
Staff Sgt. Mike Moffitt, 30<sup>th</sup> RANS

#### Helicopter Operations:

Capt. John Morales, 76<sup>th</sup> HF

#### Security Forces:

Tech Sgt. Alfonso Valenciano, 30<sup>th</sup> SFS

## Vandenberg beaches close to save snowy plover habitat

BY STAFF SGT. REBECCA BONILLA  
30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Vandenberg officials reached an interim agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials on measures to protect the Western Snowy Plover population and its critical habitat here.

More than 90 percent of Vandenberg's beaches containing the plover habitat will be closed to public access during the nesting season, March 1 through Sept. 30.

"Our award-winning environmental management team worked tirelessly to

reach an agreement that balances public access with protection of this important species," said Col. Steve Lanning, 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing commander.

Snowy plovers build their nests on the ground and rely on camouflage to protect them from predators, said

Nancy Read, base wildlife biologist.

"So these tiny birds, their eggs and chicks are particularly vulnerable to disturbance and trampling by people, horses and pets. Since Vandenberg supports approximately 20 percent of

..... See Plover on Page 8

# CComment



**Col. Steve Lanning**  
Commander,  
30th Space Wing

## 606-7850

### Commander's Action Line

**A**s the wing commander, my primary focus is on the mission, and I believe that our mission success will be based on how well we care for our people on and off the job.

The Action Line is your direct link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice your concerns, share constructive ideas or give your fellow base members a pat on the back. The Action Line is not a replacement for using the chain of command.

Callers are asked to leave their name and contact number in case more information is needed.

I want Vandenberg to continue to be the best Air Force base in the world. Working together, it will be.

### Handy phone numbers

Poison Control .....	800-777-6476	MPF customer service .....	606-7756
Clinic Appointments .....	606-4077	Pest Control .....	606-1936
Healthwise Line .....	888-252-3299	Visitor's Center .....	606-7662
TRICARE services .....	800-242-6788	Chaplain .....	606-5573
Law Enforcement .....	606-3911	Child Development Center ...	606-1555
Housing Maintenance.....	734-5586	Military Base Taxi .....	606-1843
Space & Missile Times .....	606-2040	Theater recording .....	734-1315
Launch Update Line .....	606-1857	Military Pay .....	606-4606

## Wing commander sheds light on social security number use

**Q** I was wondering why establishments on base require you to put a wealth of information on your check when you choose to pay that way? The only type of information required at most off-base establishments is a driver's license number. Does the military have a higher rate of bounced checks than the rest of the nation? Don't AAFES and DeCA trust military personnel?

**A** Thank-you for your question. Regretfully, I do admit there does seem to be a "wealth of

information" to be listed on military checks versus most off-base establishments, but AAFES and DeCA directives mandate this policy.

The rationale for this inconvenience is that military personnel are more likely to be transferred either temporarily or permanently to any part of the world within a day's notice.

I'm sure you can see the dilemma the commissary would be in if they didn't have all of the required information. Someone could write a check here and be in any part of the world tomorrow. I hope this explanation will clear up the questions you have on this requirement.

## Vice commander sees bright future for Team Vandenberg

**T**his is the final segment in a three-part series of questions and answers from Lt. General Donald Cook, vice commander of Air Force Space Command. Cook spoke with Space & Missile Times writer, Tech. Sgt. Buzz Ritchie, about a number of issues affecting 14th Air Force and the 30th Space Wing. The general was here Feb. 10 as the guest speaker at the Vandenberg Annual Awards Banquet.

**Q** Where do you see Vandenberg and 14th Air Force going in the future?

**A** The future's bright for both 14th Air Force and Vandenberg. 14th Air Force is one of the keys to aerospace integration, bringing space capabilities to the rest of the services.

As for Vandenberg, there is a wealth of future here. You've got Air Education and Training Command here for space and missiles. You've got commercial space launches. The base is also a major player on the west coast for the operational testing of aircraft like the F-22 and the Joint Strike Fighter. These are things I look for in the future here. Vandenberg is a terrific launch base in terms of testing our intercontinental ballistic missile systems.

**Q** In Space Command there are some very technical skills in the enlisted force, what is being done to address the retention issues for these skills?

**A** Retention is a problem for all of the services and there are several things our Congress, our administration, and the Department of Defense have done in order to mitigate some of these challenges.

First off, the 4.8 percent pay raise is the highest in a number of years. I just read recently that the TRICARE co-payment for dependents that go off base is going to be zero. The retirement system is back to where it should be, where you have one retirement system and 50 percent of your base pay after 20 years – instead of the 35 percent retirement system we had.

We are paying bonuses to people. There is a definite recognition that recruiting is a problem.

That is partly due to the great economy. We have wonderfully skilled people in the Air Force who can

go and get a job on the economy with employers who know that we are going to show up to work on time. They know you are going to do good work, you are disciplined, and you are motivated. Part of that is what you learn in the United States Air Force. They are ready to hire young people who get out of the USAF.

We have to, as senior NCOs and senior officers, ensure that we get the word out that these steps are being taken.

**Q** How important is the testing done in the 30th Space Wing in bringing the F-22 on line?

**A** It's critical. We make these aircraft in Georgia then take them out to Edwards AFB in California to do the test flying. If you look at the capabilities the F-22 brings in terms of range and speed, you are going to need bigger test areas. They are going to push the envelope in terms of speed. So we're going to be doing super-cruise, which is almost supersonic flight. I think you've got to have large instrumented areas in order to test them.



**Lt. Gen. Donald Cook**  
Vice Commander,  
Air Force Space Command

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### SPACE&MISSILETIMES

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# Computer age promotes individualism; makes professionalism more important than ever before

BY 1ST LT. ANGELIC BELTRAN  
721st Security Forces Squadron

■ There's been significant improvement in the quality of life for military personnel: pay raises, basic allowance for housing adjustments, an aggressive recruitment campaign into depleted Air Force Specialty Codes and many other positive changes. All were necessary to keep the force fresh while everyone was engrossed in Y2K preparation.

In a time when leaders in the military are perceived to be attached to their computers, ignoring discipline, leadership and work ethics, I wonder what the 21st century has in store for the military corps. How does the force manage to stay connected with each other when today's technology promotes individualism in the work place?

Some may argue that in today's military world of computer e-mails, faxes, phone messaging and tele-conferencing, there's a preference for leading by computer. You never have to see your supervisor face to face, just acknowledge the e-mail sent by responding with the reply, "it will get done."

Why bother with the human aspect when technology allows us to do the same amount of work 10 times faster without having to leave our desks? Why bother with strict military standards when

technology is leading the way into the future?

If you take a look at our accomplishments over the past year, you might see a different perspective in the interaction between the military and today's technological world. You might have noticed the forces' ability to physically come together to solve the complex technological problem of Y2K despite cross-country separations. I believe the reason is because of what an Air Force officer once described as the "5P" principle.

## **Pride**

Always take pride in yourself and others. Promote and acknowledge hard work and accomplishments.

## **Purpose**

Understand the purpose of your job, leadership and mentorship. We all have a responsibility to each other and the mission.

## **Patience**

Practice patience with others and in your job. Offer guidance and let your subordinates learn how to do the job.

## **Persistence**

Be persistent in order to accomplish your mission. Procrastination and laziness go against the grain of military discipline.

## **Perspective**

Offer a different perspective. Technology is always changing and needs to be incorporated in today's military. It's what keeps us ahead.

With the 5 Ps in mind, I've never seen such a display of officer and enlisted teamwork, between AFSC's, as I witnessed this past year throughout our wing. I observed officers getting out from behind their desks to guide, manage, mentor and, most importantly, assist their sections in accomplishing their goals.

I've seen senior noncommissioned officers expertly delegating work to their junior airmen in the spirit of teaching and developing future noncommissioned officers who are confident in their abilities and dedicated to meeting all mission taskings.

I've watched junior airmen become proficient in their career fields and all aspects of their jobs. I've also noticed military personnel going to college to increase their understanding of today's computer-based world, and incorporating what they've learned into their work place.

Today's force has done more than just become "technology sound," it has maintained the roots of what makes the military a great and exciting profession. With everything said and done for the 20th century, I have no fear the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with its ever-changing technology, will only enhance the military's dedication to ensure discipline, leadership and professionalism is not a thing of the past.

## Commander meets with base groups

■ Col. Steve Lanning, 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing commander, has scheduled a series of quarterly calls with members of Team Vandenberg. The topic for this quarter's calls will be preparations for the upcoming operational readiness inspection.

All meetings will be held at

the Pacific Coast Club. The schedule is as follows:

- ♦ Top three, March 14, 3:30 p.m.
- ♦ Civilians, March 21, 3:30 p.m.
- ♦ Contractors, March 23, 3:30 p.m.
- ♦ Spouses, March 29, 7 p.m.

## NEWS

## BRIEFS

**BASE MEMBERS INVITED TO DINE WITH CAPITOL'S MAYOR**

■ Members of Team Vandenberg are invited to attend dinner with the Honorable Anthony Williams, mayor of Washington D.C., Wednesday at the Pacific Coast Club. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Military attire is service dress and semi-formal for civilians. Cost is \$17. Call 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Patricia Teran-Dick at 606-0345 for reservations.

**COMMANDER AUTHORIZES 'MISSION WELL DONE DAY'**

■ Col. Steve Lanning, 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing commander, has declared March 10 a Mission Well Done Day. All non-essential personnel are excused from duty for the day. Most wing offices will be closed.

**MEDICAL GROUP PROVIDES SERVICE ON WING DOWN DAY**

■ The 30<sup>th</sup> Medical Group will participate in the Mission Well Done Day March 10.

The following services will still be available for base members who have made appointments through the appointment desk or the Healthwise nurse: primary care, pharmacy and the laboratory. The hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call the health benefits advisor at 606-8624.

**CIVIL ENGINEERS PREPARE FOR GUARDIAN CHALLENGE**

■ In preparation for Guardian Challenge 2000, base members need to make arrangements for grounds maintenance. Base civil engineers are no longer able to accept last minute requests for grounds service. Units that are experiencing problems with grounds maintenance service or have questions should call the service contracts section at 606-2330 or 606-1927.

**BRIGHT RANK INSIGNIA FOR IN-GARRISON USE ONLY**

■ According to Space Command Supplement 1 to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, officers may wear the bright, non-subdued rank insignia on organizational and BDU hats while in garrison.

However, in tactical situations, such as deployments and field training exercises, only the subdued rank may be worn.

**TDY MEMBERS MUST CERTIFY LODGING NEEDS**

■ There is no billeting office on Los Angeles AFB, Calif. The Fort McArthur Inn in San Pedro, Calif., handles billeting arrangements for members TDY to LAAFB. Also, the Pike's Peak Lodge at Peterson AFB, Colo., makes lodging arrangements for members TDY to Cheyenne Mountain AFB or Schriever AFB, Colo. When orders do not specifically authorize commercial quarters, travel vouchers submitted to the finance office must include a certificate of non-availability from the responsible billeting office. Call Staff Sgt. LaMan Dantzler at 606-1858 for more information.

**SPANISH LINGUIST NEEDED FOR ANTI-DRUG OPERATION**

■ The military personnel flight is seeking volunteers to be a spanish linguist in support of Operation Dominant Chronical in the counter-drug

division. Applicants may be in any Air Force specialty code in the grade of E-6 and below. Applications are due by March 17. TDY dates are April 10 for a 90-day tour with a possible volunteer extension up to 179 days. Duties include translating records from various Latin American countries. For more information, call MPF customer service at 606-7756.

**AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION SEEKS AWARD NOMINATIONS**

■ Nominations are due March 13 for the Air Force Association's annual awards. Time period for the awards is Jan. 1, 1999 through Dec. 31, 1999. Point of contact for the awards is Capt. Matthew Stevens, 606-5003. Nomination packages should be e-mailed to Stevens or mailed to: Air Force Association, Goddard Chapter 266 C/O TRW, P.O. Box 5279 Vandenberg AFB, Calif. 93437 Attention: Melanie Habener The awards luncheon will be held April 20 at the Pacific Coast Club. For more luncheon information, call Habener at 606-2538.

# Recall policy eases child care concerns

BY LT. COL. BRAD PECK

30<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron Commander

■ A recent clarification of 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing recall procedures could ease child care concerns for Vandenberg's Child Development Center customers.

The recently updated policy contained in 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing Instruction 10-105, allows commanders to exercise discretion when setting recall reporting procedures for shift workers, members with dependent care responsibilities and others in their units.

According to the instruction, "Unit commanders and supervisors may exercise discretion when shift workers are involved or when other circumstances preclude contacting and or having personnel report." The policy does not specifically direct procedures for units, but rather leaves that discretion to unit commanders.

One option is for commanders to count individuals as available for duty during a recall once the individual has contacted his unit and completed any other recall requirements. The individual is expected to report to work as soon as possible after the CDC opens at 6:30 a.m. Wing officials point out that the policy allows, but does not require commanders to implement a delayed reporting practice in their units.

"This can be a win-win solution to an old problem, but it requires cooperation between the individual and his or her commander to make it successful," said Capt. Mark Clanton, 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing chief of inspections. "The unit commanders and first sergeants really need to know their people and know who needs this relief — they are the ones who will make this work."

The policy applies only to exercise operations. For real-world events, military members need to execute their dependent care plans and report immediately.



Senior Airman Monique Martinez, 30<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, and her daughter Alissia Rodeiguez-Martinez sign into the child development center here.

Military members who are single parents or who are married to other military members are required to have a dependent care plan in place. Individuals, as well as commanders, always have the option to exercise dependent care plans rather than participate in a delayed-reporting type process.

Wing officials investigated the possibility of opening the CDC early for exercises and recalls. Contractual obligations and union rules, as well as the extra cost to CDC patrons, were obstacles which made the delayed reporting process a better option for Team Vandenberg, according to wing officials. In real-world contingencies the 30<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron commander has authority to open the CDC early in support of the wing mission.

Information on 30<sup>th</sup> SW Instruction 10-105 is available on the Vandenberg Electronic Publications Distribution Library.

## DFAS offers new savings bonds

■ DENVER -- The Defense Finance and Accounting Service began offering the new Series I savings bonds, along with the existing Series EE savings bonds, to civilian employees March 1, through the voluntary payroll savings plan. Active duty and retired military members will be able to purchase the I bonds beginning April 1.

The new bonds will be sold at face value (you pay \$50 for a \$50 bond) and will be offered in \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200, \$500 and \$1,000 denominations.

The I bonds were created by the Department of the Treasury to provide Americans an opportunity to protect the purchase power of their savings from inflation. Investors are being offered a bond with a fixed rate, combined with semiannual inflation adjustments, that will help protect purchasing power. The I bonds are an accrual type security, meaning earnings are added to the bond each month and interest is paid when the bond is cashed. The I bonds will grow in value with inflation-indexed earnings for up to 30 years.

The EE bonds are Treasury securities, and interest is added to the redemption value every six months and paid to the investor when the bond is redeemed. The purchase price of an EE Bond is 50 percent face value (a \$100 bond costs \$50) and is offered in \$100, \$200, \$500 and \$1,000 denominations.

For more information regarding the benefits of the new I bonds or the EE bonds visit the Bureau of Public Debts Web site on the Internet at [www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov).



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS APRIL MUNIZ

## New boss

*Lt. Col. Sven Berg (right), assumes command of the 30th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Feb. 25. Col. Alan Newton (left), 30th Medical Group commander, passed the flag between Berg and outgoing 30th AMSS Commander Col. Willard Towle (center). Master Sgt. John Nelson, 30th AMSS superintendent, was the guidon bearer.*

# Air Force Assistance Fund makes commitment to caring

■ RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The 2000 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign begins Feb. 28 and runs through March 31. “Commitment to Caring” is the campaign’s permanent theme.

Last year’s contributions totaled nearly \$4 million. The Air Force goal for the 2000 AFAF Campaign is \$3.4 million.

The annual AFAF campaign raises money for four charitable organizations benefiting active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force people and their families, including surviving spouses and their families.

The organizations are:

**The Air Force Aid Society.** This is the official charity of the Air Force, which can be accessed worldwide for emergency financial assistance. The top priority is assistance to active duty members and their families, but consideration is given to assisting retirees and widows on a limited, case-by-case basis. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members on extended active duty under Title 10 U.S.C. can also be eligible for emergency assistance when circumstances warrant. The Air Force Aid Society also offers education assistance programs, and an array of base level community enhancement programs. Local Family Support Centers can provide full details on programs and eligibility. Information is also available on their web site at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org).

**The Air Force Enlisted Men’s Widows and Dependents Home Foundation, Inc.** The foundation’s home is located in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., near Eglin Air Force Base, and provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people who live among peers sharing memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing

facilities. Those eligible are widows and widowers, 55 and older, whose spouses were retired enlisted persons from the regular Air Force, Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve. For more information, E-mail them at [afewh@emeraldcoast.com](mailto:afewh@emeraldcoast.com).

**The Air Force Village Indigent Widow’s Fund.** The Village, located in San Antonio, is a life-care community for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members. Their Indigent Widows Fund provides support to indigent widows and widowers of Air Force officers. For more information visit their web site at [www.airforcevillages.com](http://www.airforcevillages.com).

**The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.** Not all indigent widows or widowers want, or are able to move to one of the retirement homes. The LeMay foundation provides rent and financial assistance to indigent officers’ and enlisted widows or widowers in their own home and community. For more information visit their web site at [www.afvw.com/lemay.html](http://www.afvw.com/lemay.html).

Donations to the AFAF campaign can be made through cash or check contributions or payroll deduction. Contributors may designate their contributions to one or more of the four charities and 100 percent of their AFAF contribution is passed to their chosen charities. Contributions to the AFAF are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes as an itemized deduction.

For more information on the AFAF campaign, check out its web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund), then click on “Fundraising.” For local contribution procedures, call the base project officer 1st Lt. Wah Wai Sze at 605-8899 or the assistant project officer Senior Airman Rebecca Ballenger at 606-9348.





AIRMAN 1ST CLASS APRIL MUNIZ

## Healthy smiles

*During February, National Children's Dental Health Month, Airman 1st Class Danielle Houston, 30th Dental Squadron, reads to children at the Vandenberg Library. Tatiana Aviles and Matthew Seward pay close attention to Houston's story about taking care of their teeth.*

## AF demographics offer overview

■ RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- The Air Force Personnel Center here has published its quarterly report on the active-duty populace.

The report offers a snapshot of the service's active-duty employees, providing a more descriptive look at the service.

The latest version covers Oct. 1 through Dec. 31. More statistical information about the Air Force is available under the center's analysis page in the personnel statistics area.

### Active-Duty Demographics: Force Strength :

Approximately 352,536 individuals are on active duty; 68,920 officers and 283,616 enlisted personnel.

The Air Force has 12,583 pilots, 5,022 navigators and 33,284 non-rated line officers in the grades of lieutenant colonel and below.

### Age :

The average age of the officer force is 35; for the enlisted force it's 29.

Of the force, 35 percent are below the age of 26.

Forty-one percent of enlisted versus 12 percent officer.

### Gender:

Eighteen percent of the force are women.

Seventeen percent of the officers and 19 percent of the enlisted.

Fifty-three percent of the female officers are line officers; 47 percent are non-line.

Eighty-four percent of the male officers are line officers; 16 percent are non-line.

The population of women has increased from 33,000, or 5.4 percent, in 1975 to 65,167.

Women first began entering pilot training in 1976, fighter pilot training in July 1993 and navigator training in 1977.

Currently there are 364, or three percent, female pilots and 131, or three percent, female navigators.

# Joint ethics regulation governs conduct at computer conference

30<sup>TH</sup> SPACE WING LEGAL OFFICE

■ A Microsoft symposium is scheduled for March 7 through 9 in Redmond, Wa. This is not an official Air Force-sanctioned event. It is an activity solely within the control of Microsoft.

However, Air Force members may attend if their supervisors and commanders believe their attendance will further the interests and mission of the Air Force. The joint ethics regulation stipulating restrictions on gifts from defense contractors does apply. Air Force members who attend the symposium are responsible for ensuring that their conduct is in accordance with the JER.

The following guidance applies to Air Force members who attend this event:

The Air Force is responsible for all costs associated with attending this event except that travel reimbursement is not authorized.

Air Force members must be in a temporary duty status to attend.

Transportation may be provided by Microsoft between the "campus" and members' hotels if commercial transportation is not reasonably available. Transportation around the "campus" may be provided by Microsoft.

Members may accept a continental breakfast and refreshments at the breaks. Modest items of food and refreshments are not considered gifts.

Lunches may be accepted provided that any one lunch does not exceed \$20

and the total cost of all three lunches does not exceed \$50 in value. Members should note that if they participate in the luncheons, they will have exhausted the gift exception which permits up to \$50 from one source in one calendar year. That means that no other gifts, prizes, souvenirs or full meals may be accepted from Microsoft at the symposium, or anywhere else for the rest of 2000.

The vendor fair and reception on March 8 can be attended as a "widely-attended gathering" if representatives from other services or agencies, or contractors will also attend.

There is no JER exception that allows Air Force members to purchase items at a discount at the Microsoft company store unless the same store access and discounts are available to the general public.

There is no JER exception that permits attendance at the March 7, Red Hook Brewery tour if any part of the tour, including transportation, is funded by Microsoft.

Air Force members who are unsure whether any other gift or gratuity offered by Microsoft is acceptable should decline the offer.

Members are also reminded that they must avoid disclosing any proprietary information or non-public information about Air Force communication systems to unauthorized people.

Call the legal office at 605-6220 for more information.

# Phone scam targets would-be prize winners

■ Beware the "urgent" message you hear on your answering machine, the e-mail message about a "prize," or the long-distance message on your pager. Any of them could turn out to be an expensive telephone trap.

From coast to coast, American consumers are getting stung by "emergency" and cryptic telephone, e-mail and pager messages urging them to call an "809" number for information about injured or sick relatives, "prize opportunities" or "debt collectors." The messages tell recipients to call a long-distance number for more information. In many cases, the return-call number is an international pay-per-call line, with a three digit exchange that looks like an American or Canadian area code.

It's not always easy to distinguish an international dialing code from a North American area code. Most international numbers can be reached only by dialing 011, the international access code. However, some places outside the United States or Canada, such as the Caribbean, can be reached simply by dialing a number beginning with three digits that resemble a North American area code. Many scam artists take advantage of this situation — and of unsus-

pecting consumers — by urging them to call numbers that begin with area codes 809, 758, or 664 without revealing that these calls result in international long distance charges. Because each country establishes its own telephone rates, there is no limit to the per-minute charge for these calls.

The Federal Trade Commission reminds consumers to be suspicious of unidentified telephone, e-mail, or pager messages that claim to offer information about a sick or injured relative, a debt, bad credit, or prize offer. In addition, the FTC cautions consumers to be wary of messages from unfamiliar sources with a return telephone number using 809, 758, or 664 area codes, or the 011 international access code. Finally, the agency suggests that consumers question television or print ads that offer products or investment opportunities through telephone numbers that start with these area codes or the 011 international code.

You can file a complaint with the FTC by contacting the Consumer Response Center at (877) FTC-HELP (382-4357). Although the Commission cannot resolve individual problems for consumers, it can act against a company if it sees a pattern of possible law violations.

# Retiree activities office gets new volunteer director

By COL. MYRNA WHITNEY  
30th Space Wing

■ Retired Lt. Col. John Konop assumed his position as Vandenberg's Retiree Activities Office director effective Feb. 10.

Konop earned his pilot wings and an Air Force commission as a second lieutenant in March 1944. As a B-24 Liberator aircraft commander, he flew 23 combat missions with the 824<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, in Italy.

Konop logged more than 7,000 flight hours during his career and was rated a command pilot. The majority of his flight-time was spent in



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS APRIL MUNIZ

*Retired Lt. Col. John Konop shows Rhonda Cannon what services are available on base.*

C-54 and C-124 transport aircraft and included more than 300 missions as part of the Berlin Airlift. He also served a 14-month tour during the Korean War.

On the administrative side, Konop served primarily in supply and materiel functions. His assignments included tours at Headquarters, United States Air Forces Europe and Headquarters, United States Air Force.

The 23-year veteran retired from active duty in June 1965.

In 1968 Konop contracted for the operation of a municipal airport in Porterville, Calif. He

owned concessions for an airport restaurant and an aviation fuel facility. When the contracts expired in 1985, he opened a computer business handling hardware and software systems for public accountants, and later, for medical patient management.

The retiree activities office is located in building 10364 in the base exchange area. It's open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. Volunteers run the office now but more people are needed.

For more information or to volunteer, call the RAO at 606-5474.



*The Western Snowy Plover*

## Plover from Page 1

the threatened population, our commitment to preserving this species is all the more important."

The decline in the snowy plover population that led to listing under the Endangered Species Act was caused by coastal development, human recreation, and the introduction of exotic plants and non-native predators. The species is also prey to other animals prevalent on base such as the coyote and raccoon.

There is an area of beach

approximately one-half mile long accessible by the general public at Surf Station west of Lompoc on Highway 246. Additionally, people with access to Vandenberg have beach

access to approximately one-quarter mile at Wall Beach and one-half mile at Minuteman Beach.

The beaches are closed to help the Western Snowy Plover survive and thrive. Biologists from U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Vandenberg have determined that linear restrictions, or those restrictions which prevent people and pets from entering the dunes where the plovers nest, are not working.

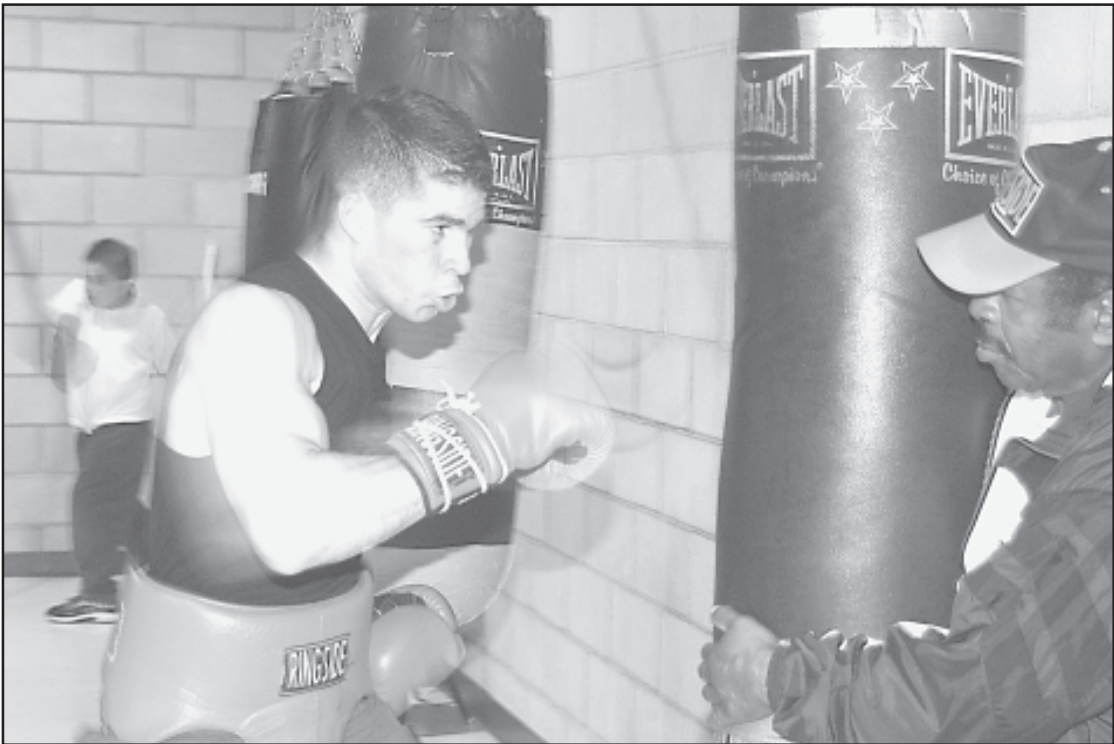
"Although the linear restriction did help to reduce direct nest loss, both hatching success

and chick survival have been low under this management approach," Read said. Therefore, a more complete closure is necessary to ensure survival of the species.

"Our data indicates that since 1994 Vandenberg's plover population has declined" said Col. Duane Lamb, 30th Support Group commander. "Now we have some interim measures in place that are directed at providing protection for the snowy plover during both their early nesting and fledgling stages of the nesting season. We hope over the next few months to continue working with the public and the appropriate regulatory agencies to come up with some longer term measures to facilitate the recovery of this listed species."

Lamb said most of the restrictions on beach use will be lifted Oct. 1 at the end of the nesting season.





AIRMAN 1ST CLASS APRIL MUNIZ

**Let’s rumble**

*Jorge Hernandez, a member the Vandenberg Boxing Team, works out on the heavy bag at the Santa Maria Club with team coach and trainer, Don Green. Hernandez is preparing to compete in the Light middleweight division in Saturday’s boxing smoker at Vandenberg middle school. The event is set to begin at noon.*

**INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL STANDINGS**

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

<u>Team</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Ties</u>	<u>PA</u>	<u>Rank</u>
30 <sup>th</sup> Transportation Squadron	9	3	0	476	1
30 <sup>th</sup> Services Squadron	9	3	0	554	2
30 <sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron	7	5	0	509	3
576 <sup>th</sup> Flight Test Squadron #2	6	6	0	505	4
381 <sup>st</sup> Training Squadron	5	7	0	502	5
614 <sup>th</sup> Space Operations Squadron	5	7	0	593	7
2 <sup>nd</sup> Space Launch Squadron #2	1	11	0	633	7

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

<u>Team</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Ties</u>	<u>PA</u>	<u>Rank</u>
576 <sup>th</sup> Flight Test Squadron #1	11	1	0	398	1
30 <sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron	10	1	0	444	2
392 <sup>nd</sup> Training Squadron	8	4	0	571	3
30 <sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron	5	6	0	506	4
533 <sup>rd</sup> Training Squadron	5	7	0	499	5
Detachment 9	2	10	0	553	6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Space Launch Squadron #1	1	11	0	531	7



ARMAN 1ST CLASS DAVE CLOWER

*Hannah Harding, winner of the girls 12-year-old division free-throw competition, focuses her attention as she prepares to make another one of her award winning shots.*

## Knights of Columbus Crown Free Throw Champions

BY TECH. SGT. LLOYD CONLEY

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Four boys and three girls, ages 10 to 14, were named local champions of the 2000 Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship. Their efforts earned them the right to compete at the district level.

"Our Lady of the Stars," Council 9231 at Vandenberg Air Force Base sponsored the local competition at Vandenberg's Gym Annex on Jan. 23.

Rosannah Harding was the 10-year-old girl's champion and Jason Daniels won the 10-year-old boy's division.

Thomas Nakatsuchi was the 11-year-old boy's division champion.

Hannah Harding and Ben Damián Jr were winners in the 12-year-old girl's and boy's divisions, respectively.

Atiya Newton won the 13-year-old girls' division.

Nick Stench was the winner in the 14-year-old boy's division.

Each contestant was allowed 15 free-throw attempts in the contests.

Each of the contestants competed in district competition last Saturday at St. Joseph's High School Gym in Santa Maria, Ca.

Hannah Harding, Thomas Nakatsuchi, and Nick Stench won their respective age groups and advanced to regional competition scheduled for Sunday at the Boys & Girls Club in Goleta, Calif.

The winners will advance to compete at the state and international levels.



SPORT

SHORTS

VANDENBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL HOLDS BOXING

■ Junior and senior amateur boxers from Vandenberg and the southern California area are scheduled to compete in a “Boxing Smoker” at Vandenberg Middle School Saturday at noon. Call Don Green at 733-2245 for more information.

VOLLEYBALL LETTERS OF INTENT DUE

■ Letters of intent for the 2000 Intramural Volleyball season are due to the fitness center by Friday. The coaches’ meeting is scheduled for March 13 at 10 a.m. at the fitness center. Call Staff Sgt. Marvis Neal at 606-3834

VANDENBERG SPONSORS MARLINS SWIM TEAM

■ Vandenberg’s swim team, the Marlins, is open to all base children ages 5 to 18. The program is dedicated to the growth of children by the development of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty and team spirit through a competitive swim program. Practice times vary according to ability. For more information, call the family aquatic center at 606-5381.

YOUTH CENTER HOLDS SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS

■ The youth center is accepting late youth baseball and softball sign-ups. Registrations will continue until rosters are full. Sign-up at the youth center Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ages for baseball players are 5 to 12,

and 7 to 16 for softball players. For more information, call Kristi Bonneau at 606-2152.

FITNESS CENTER HAS FREE BOXING CLASSES

■ The Fitness Center is sponsoring free boxing classes at the aerobic center, building 14019, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call the fitness center at 606-3832 or Don Green at 733-2245.

SERVICES CENTER HAS FREE KARATE CLASSES

■ Free Japanese shotokan karate instruction is offered at the services center, building 10122, Monday and Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. Men, women and children 10 years and older may join at any time. Beginners are welcome. A Wednesday class is held at the fitness center. For more information, call George Stankevich at 736-6213 or the fitness center at 606-3832.

MENS VARSITY SOFTBALL TRYOUTS BEGIN

■ Men’s softball tryouts are scheduled at field #2 from 6 to 8 p.m. Tryouts will last through Friday. Call Staff Sgt. Jose Guarjardo at 606-3832 for more information.

ALL-STAR BASKETBALL GAME RESCHEDULED

■ The All Star Basketball Game 3 Point Shoot Out scheduled for today has been rescheduled for March 17 at 6 p.m. at the fitness center. Call 606-3832 for more information.

FRIENDS OF CAMBRIA SPONSOR FOUR MILE RACE

■ The second annual Cambria Friends of the Library Race is scheduled for Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at Shamel Park in Cambria, Calif. The race is four miles long. There will be seven age divisions from 17 years to 70. For more information, call Doug Buckmaster at (805) 927-4206.

LOMPOC DISTANCE CLUB HOLDS MEMORIAL RUN

■ The Lompoc Valley Distance Club Winter Memorial 10- and 5-Kilometer run is scheduled for 8:30 and 9:15 a.m. March 11. The run will start and finish at Ryon Park in Lompoc. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and there is a fee. Walkers are welcome. For more information, call Wayne Davis at 736-1739.

ATASCADERO HOLDS HOUNDS AND HARE RUN

■ A Hounds and Hare 5-kilometer run and walk is scheduled for March 19 at 9 a.m. in the Atascadero Pavillion in Atascadero, Calif. There is an entry fee. The race is a fundraiser for the all-weather track at Atascadero High School. For more information, call Chris Shuck at (805) 461-6533.

PASO ROBLES HOLDS WINE COUNTRY MARATHON

■ The fourth annual wine country marathon and 5-kilometer race is scheduled for April 2 at the Martin Brothers Winery Amphitheater in Paso Robles, Calif. There will be a post race party, a complimentary continental breakfast, and a live band. For more information, call Russ Meznarich at (805) 226-9911.

CUESTA COLLEGE HOLDS BIATHLON

■ A 50-kilometer biathlon is scheduled to be held on the Cuesta College campus. Individuals and teams are welcome. For more information, call Warren Hansen at (805) 546-3207.

30 <sup>TH</sup> SERVICES SQUADRON’S SPORTS DEPARTMENT PNOHE NUMBERS	
Fitness Center.....	606-3832 and 606-5962
Fitness Center Annex.....	606-3832
Bowling Center.....	734-1510 and 606-3209
Golf Course.....	606-6262 and 734-4764
Golf Course tee times.....	606-3832
Outdoor Recreation and FAMCAMP....	606-0960
Equipment Checkout.....	606-5908
Swimming Pool.....	606-3581
Rod and Gun Club.....	606-4560
Services Center.....	605-8974
Youth Sports.....	606-2152